

Rules asked for no specific name in a monospecific genus, it is quite clear that *Argus argus* is the type-species of the genus *Argus*." Acting upon this belief Engel asked for an opinion from the Commission in regard to the validity of Bohadsch's names. This was rendered on October 17, 1945 (Opinion No. 185), the title of which is as follows: "Suppression of Bohadsch (J.B.), *De quibusdam animalibus marinus*, 1761, and of the German translation thereof published by Leske (N.G.) in 1776." There was no dissenting vote among the commissioners so that the early name *Argus* of Bohadsch is purely of academic interest at this time.

NOTES ON SOME BRAZILIAN PLANORBIDAE

BY H. A. PILSBRY

In the course of investigating some Planorbidae for Dr. Otis R. Causey, of the International Health Division, Rockefeller Foundation, certain forms were encountered which gave occasion for the following descriptions and notes.

AUSTRALORBIS AMPHIGLYPTUS, **new species**. Vol. 64, plate 9, figs. 6, 6a.

The discoidal shell has on the left side a deep conical concavity with subangular (narrowly rounded) border; the right side is very slightly concave, nearly level, with subangular border. The periphery is rounded. The surface is smooth in the peripheral zone, strongly costulate in both right and left concavities, the riblets regular, in the direction of lines of growth; wanting on the first two whorls. The aperture is rather narrow, less oblique than usual in this genus, the outer margin being straight in profile.

Height 6 mm., diameter 13.5 mm.; $4\frac{1}{2}$ whorls.

"Rio de Janeiro, Brazil," received from the Smithsonian Institution. Type 21635 ANSP.

The chief differential feature of this planorb is the strong, regular costulation of the walls of the right and left concavities, not found in any other *Australorbis* seen or found in a search through the literature.

It has been in the collection of the Academy for many years. Some doubt of the locality may be entertained as it does not seem likely that so distinct a snail could have escaped notice in that locality, which has been visited by many naturalists, and where Dr. Lutz made an extensive study of Planorbidae.

AUSTRALORBIS BAHIENSIS MEGAS, **new subspecies.** Vol. 64, plate 9, figs. 4, 4a, 5.

The discoidal shell has on the left side a rather deep cup-shaped or conical concavity with flattened sides and an angular boundary. The right side is flattened, with a smaller broadly conical central concavity, and is bluntly angular near the rounded periphery, the greatest convexity of the peripheral curve being nearer the right side. The last whorl is rather wide, the width of the spire, measured on the right side, being about 53 to 57 percent of the total diameter. The surface is rather smooth, but shows fine wrinkles of growth under a lens. The color of the type lot is sepia, but in several other lots more of a tawny olive tint. The aperture is somewhat squarish but the outer margin rounded, inclined about 45° to the axis, but the obliquity is mainly in the left or lower half, the plane of the right half being nearly parallel to the axis. The outer lip is therefore concave in a profile view.

Height 9.4 mm., diameter 26.5 mm.; about 6 whorls. Type.
Height 11 mm., diameter 30 mm.; 6½ whorls.

Petropolis, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Type 186903 ANSP.

In this race the shell is larger and especially higher than *A. bahiensis* (Dunker), and the whorls increase more rapidly, the last whorl, on the right side, being much wider relative to the spire than in *A. bahiensis*.

Dr. J. B. de Spix, who made extensive collections in the province of Bahia and the Amazon valley, died before writing up his mollusks. He left a series of plates drawn on stone, with the names of his species lettered at the foot. Dr. J. A. Wagner was engaged to supply the text. He had little regard for Spix's names, substituting Lamarckian genera for new genera proposed by Spix, and he frequently changed the specific names. In the publication "*Testacea fluviatilia Brasiliensis*" (1827) both the Wagner and the Spix names are lettered on the plates, but in

the text Spix's names, when differing from Wagner's, are placed in synonymy.

Planorbis lugubris Wagner¹ has embarrassed all conchologists who have dealt with Brazilian planorbs. It was described from a specimen not figured, said to measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines high, $10\frac{1}{2}$ wide (that is, about 22 mm. diameter), with four rounded whorls, the last one inflated, cylindric. Wagner referred to an ambiguous figure in Chemnitz, of about 15 mm. diameter, which may represent *Helisoma caribbaeum* (Orbigny) or something similar, as it is said to be "von Westindien." Wagner included two forms of *lugubris*:

"a) Testa adulta, majore. [This is evidently the specimen he described.]

"b) Testa juniore, minore: *Planorbis nigricans*, *albescens* et *viridis* Spix, Tab. xviii, fig. 3, 4, 5, 6."

These species of Spix were from woodland brooks at Ilheos and Almada, province of Bahia.

Professor Von Martens had an opportunity to examine the originals of Spix's figures. He gave the results in Malak, Blätter, 15: 188, as follows:

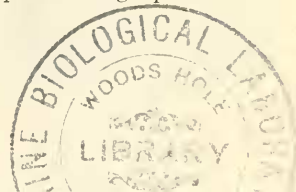
". . . das Original zu Fig. 4 und 5, *Pl. nigricans* Spix (nicht Fig. 3, wie auf der Tafel steht),² hat die Kanten kaum angedeutet, aber die Windungen doch ziemlich rasch, wie bei *tenagophilus* zunehmend; dasjenige zu Fig. 6, *nigricans* [error for *viridis*] Spix, ist kleiner, unten weniger tief und hat die Kanten, namentlich die obere, besser ausgeprägt, es nähert sich also noch mehr dem *Pl. tenagophilus*. Das Original zu Fig. 3, *Pl. albescens* Spix, scheint gar nicht hieher, sondern zu *olivaceus* zu gehören."

It would seem that Spix's figures 4 and 5 (*nigricans* Spix) agree with Wagner's description in having scarcely any indication of carinae. Fig. 4 measures 14.7 mm. in diameter, while Fig. 6 (*viridis* Spix) is smaller and has a better developed keel.³

¹ Test. fluv. Brasil., p. 27.

² In the numbering of Spix's plate the numbers 3 and 5 are exchanged.

³ Dr. Adolfo Lutz described and figured a strongly carinate species under the name *Planorbis nigricans* Spix (Mem. do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, vol. 10, fac. 1, p. 51, 1918), but it certainly is not that species though possibly it may be *viridis* Spix.



In our older collections there are specimens labeled *P. lugubris* which agree fairly with Spix's *P. nigricans* so far as can be seen; but Spix gave only a view of one side, and there is no description of his shells.

What is needed to clear the situation is a good collection from the state of Bahia. In any case, it seems that *P. bahiensis* Dunker is distinct from *P. lugubris* Wagner, whatever that may be.

NEW FLORIDAN SPECIES OF OSTREA AND VERMICULARIA

BY AXEL A. OLSSON

OSTREA WEBERI, new species. Plate 1, figs. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Shell *Anomia*-like, thin, amber or apricot colored, attached usually by the whole surface of the lower valve, hence more or less irregular in form by conforming to the rock bed underneath but with a general tendency for the outline to approach subcircular. Cardinal area narrow, turned towards the posterior side, with the ligament furrow in the middle, the area itself terminating in a small inconspicuous beak pointing backwards. The lateral margins on each side of the cardinal area are minutely denticulated, pits in the left valve and small pustules in the right; in some specimens these denticulations may be nearly obsolete. Outer surface of upper valve covered with fine, radial threads which are more or less divaricate along the middle and spread out fanlike on the ventral portion (fig. 4). The surface of the lower valve where it has become free or detached without causing injury, is smoother with waved growth-lines, the radials almost or wholly obsolete, its color white or pink with faint rays sometimes showing on the extreme umbo. Interior shiny, subnacreous, the muscle scar, posterior in position, small and semilunate. Valve margin is bordered by a darker zone, quite wide, formed by the growing outer layer.

Type, an upper valve from Key West: Height from beak to ventral margin 37.1 mm., diameter across the sides 37.9 mm.

This fine species, wholly distinct from any other oyster known from Atlantic waters, will be recognized at once by its *Anomia*-like shell, deep, rich color and fine, thread-like, radial sculpture of its upper valve. Although so much smaller, and always thin